

**TOP SECRET**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL DIRECTIVEonCOVERT OPERATIONS

1. The National Security Council, taking cognizance of the vicious covert <sup>Communist China</sup> activities of the USSR, <sup>hereinafter referred to as International Communism</sup> its satellite countries and Communist groups to discredit and defeat the aims and activities of the United States and other powers of the free world, has determined that, in the interests of world peace and U.S. national security, the overt foreign activities of the U. S. Government must be supplemented by covert operations.

2. The Central Intelligence Agency <sup>has already been</sup> charged by the National Security Council with conducting espionage and counterespionage operations abroad. It <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ therefore deemed desirable, for operational reasons, not to create a new agency for covert operations, but, <sup>the terms of this directive</sup> subject to ~~this action~~, to place the responsibility for them within <sup>the</sup> ~~the structure of~~ the Central Intelligence Agency and correlate them with espionage and counterespionage operations under the over-all control of the Director of Central Intelligence.

3. Such covert operations <sup>shall</sup> ~~will~~ be designed in general order of emphasis to:

a. Place the maximum strain on the Communist structure of power affiliated with Moscow, particularly the relationships between the USSR and its satellites, including Communist China; and when and where appropriate in the light of U. S. and Soviet (including satellites) capabilities and the risk of war, contribute to the retraction and reduction of Soviet and satellite power and influence to limits which no longer constitute a threat to U. S. security.

\*No Objection to Declassification & Release by NSC\*

b. Strengthen

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b. Strengthen the orientation toward the United States of the peoples and nations of the free world and increase their capacity and will to resist *International Communism*, Soviet and satellite domination.

c. Develop underground resistance and facilitate covert and guerrilla operations in strategic areas to the maximum practicable extent consistent with 3a above, and ensure availability of these forces in the event of war ~~for utilization in accordance with principles established by the National Security Council~~, including wherever practicable provision of a base upon which the military may expand these forces ~~on a military basis~~ in time of war *provision for* within active theaters of operations as well as *stay-behind* assets and escape and evasion facilities.

4. Under the authority of Section 102(d)(5) of the National Security Act of 1947, the National Security Council hereby directs that the Director of Central Intelligence shall be responsible for:

a. Ensuring that covert operations are planned and conducted in a manner consistent with United States foreign and military policies and with overt activities, obtaining ~~general guidance~~ *advice* in this respect through the mechanism of the Operations Coordinating Board or ~~through direct liaison from~~ *from* the appropriate departments or agencies.

b. Ensuring that plans for wartime covert operations are drawn up with the assistance of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and are acceptable to the latter as being consistent with and complementary to approved plans for wartime military operations.

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*as a need to know basis*  
c. Informing, through appropriate channels, agencies of the U. S.

Government, both at home and abroad (including diplomatic and military representatives in each area), of such operations as will affect them.

~~d. Operational funds for carrying out covert operations shall be included in Central Intelligence Agency budget requests.~~

5. In time of war, or when the President directs, all plans for covert operations shall be coordinated with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In active theaters of war where American forces are engaged, covert operations will be conducted under the direct command of the American Theater Commander and orders therefor will be transmitted through the Joint Chiefs of Staff unless otherwise directed by the President.

6. As used in this directive, "covert operations" <sup>shall be</sup> ~~are~~ understood to be all activities <sup>pursuant to this directive</sup> ~~(except as noted herein)~~ which are conducted or sponsored by this ~~government against hostile foreign states or groups or in support of friendly foreign states or groups~~ but which are so planned and executed that any U. S. Government responsibility for them is not evident to unauthorized persons and that if uncovered the U. S. Government can plausibly disclaim any responsibility for them. Specifically, such operations shall include any covert activities related to: <sup>political action;</sup> propaganda; economic warfare; preventive direct action, including sabotage, anti-sabotage, demolition, escape and evasion and evacuation measures; subversion ~~against hostile states~~, including assistance to underground resistance movements, guerrillas and refugee liberation groups, support of indigenous and anti-communist elements in threatened countries of the free world and deception plans and operations, and all activities necessary to carry out the foregoing.

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such operations shall not include armed conflict by recognized military forces, espionage, counter-espionage, and cover and deception for military operations.

~~The Director of Central Intelligence shall be responsible for referring to the Operations Coordinating Board operations initially covert which through changing circumstances no longer comply with the above definitions and responsibility for which should, therefore, be transferred to other agencies.~~

7. This directive supersedes DCI 10/2 and NSC 10/5 which are hereby canceled, without however limiting or affecting the functions assigned to the Operations Coordinating Board by the President's memorandum to the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council supplementing Executive Order 10463 or the carrying forward by the DCI of covert programs already operative, unless otherwise determined by the OAB.

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